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November 25, 1942

SUBJECT: AGREEMENT BETWEEN MID, ONI AND FBI FOR
COORDINATING SPECIAL INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS
IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

COPY

"I. The undersigned, in order to reduce to writing the basic principles regulating the operation and responsibilities for Special Intelligence operations in the Western Hemisphere in accordance with the Presidential instructions of June 24, 1940, and January 16, 1942, and previous instructions referred to therein, and in harmony with the 'Agreement for Coordination of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Office of Naval Intelligence and the Military Intelligence Division,' do hereby agree that this agreement supplements all previous delimitation agreements concerning intelligence operations outside of the United States, agree upon the assignment of responsibility, as given in paragraphs II, III, IV, for intelligence coverage in Mexico, Central America, (with the exception of the Republic of Panama), South America, the Caribbean, and Canada. Responsibility assigned to one organization in a given field carries with it the obligation to provide by the most expeditious means possible consistent with requisite security to the other subscribing agencies all pertinent information received in that field, but it does not imply that the responsible agency alone is interested in, or that it only will work in, that field. Close cooperation among the headquarters of the three agencies in all fields is a mutually recognized necessity.

"It will also be necessary that close cooperation and coordination exist locally between the representatives of each of the three agencies assigned at each American Embassy or Legation in Latin America. Such cooperation should include direct continuous liaison between the legal, military, and naval attaches for a free exchange of intelligence and other information of mutual interest. In view of the fact that these operations envisage intelligence activities of an investigative nature in sovereign foreign countries, it is agreed that the three interested agencies will maintain proper coordination with the American Ambassador or Minister involved, to the end that all American intelligence activities and the American War program in any particular country for such proper coordination to exist, it is necessary that the legal operatives in each particular country involved; further, that all of cover operatives be thoroughly coordinated through the legal attache. It is likewise necessary that the identities and operations of any undercover operatives of the American Intelligence Command be known at all times to the military attache in the particular country involved, and that all activities and information developed by such undercover operatives be coordinated through the military attache in each country involved. The above provisions will apply in the same manner with regard to attaches in each country involved. It is agreed that neither the legal, military nor naval attache will be called upon to divulge the identity of any undercover operative to any individual or official except in case of most urgent military or diplomatic necessity. It is agreed that any question relative to any undercover operative or suspected undercover operative should be immediately discussed with the appropriate attache of the particular agency involved prior to any other action. In the event

Army, ONI and
FBI review(s)
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proper adjustment cannot be effected by other means, any question concerning an undercover operative or suspect in the latter connection should be adjusted between the headquarters of the three agencies involved.

"II. MID will be responsible for:

1. A continuation of the work normally outlined for and executed by military attaches.
2. The collection of military information needed by the military forces. To this end, authority to maintain such personnel as the War Department deems necessary for the performance of such duties is recognized.
3. All matters of an intelligence nature, including espionage, sabotage, and subversive activities, involving United States Army personnel.
4. Procurement of information concerning espionage, sabotage, or other subversive activities, on or within United States military areas and/or those other areas controlled, directed, operated or of interest to the United States Military establishment.
5. Furnishing such cooperation and assistance to either of the other two agencies as might be practical and feasible under the circumstances, upon specific request from the particular agency involved. This specific request would include a specific request from the appropriate attache of the particular agency involved.

"III. ONI will be responsible for:

1. A continuation of the work normally outlined for and executed by Naval Attaches.
2. The collection of information needed by the naval forces. To this end, authority to maintain such personnel as the Navy Department deems necessary for the performance of such duties is recognized.
3. All matters of an intelligence nature, including espionage, sabotage, and subversive activities, involving United States Navy personnel.
4. Procurement of information concerning espionage, sabotage, or other subversive activities, on or within United States naval bases and/or those other places of naval interest to the national effort.
5. Furnishing such cooperation and assistance to either of the other two agencies as might be practical and feasible under the circumstances, upon specific request from the appropriate attache of the particular agency involved.

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"IV. FBI will be responsible for:

1. The obtaining in the Western Hemisphere, including Mexico, Central America (with the exception of the Republic of Panama), South America, the Caribbean, and Canada, of economic, political, industrial, financial and subversive information, also information concerning movements, organizations, and individuals whose activities are prejudicial to the interests of the United States, by reason of espionage, sabotage, or otherwise.
2. The Federal Bureau of Investigation will be responsible for the furnishing to the Military and Naval services of all pertinent information obtained.
3. Conducting surveys in the nature of plant surveys with respect to plants and other facilities vital to the production, manufacture, and transportation of strategic materials for use in behalf of the United Nations' war effort. The latter will include the matter of furnishing technical advisers and instructors to the local governments, industries, and officials, with regard to plant surveys and plant protection matters.

"V.

1. In these times of stress, by which is meant, times that are such as to anticipate periods of predominant military interest, the collection of and the coordination of efforts to obtain additional intelligence of interest to our armed forces, also becomes a responsibility of the military (naval) commander, who is primarily charged with the military (naval) operations conducted within his potential theater of operations.
2. The general type of military and naval information alluded to includes, amongst other items, the following: location of air fields; submarine bases; fueling stations; rendezvous for hostile military forces, land, sea and air; concentrations of munitions of war, and other supplies susceptible to military use; unusual assemblies and actions of individuals, organizations or communities; demonstrations of undue friendliness or hostility; undue interest in individuals, organizations, or communities; or other information indicating preparations for or carrying on of open or surreptitious military operations.
3. In periods of predominant military interest, the Assistant Chief of Staff in charge of Military Intelligence (Director of Naval Intelligence) will advise the Director of Naval Intelligence (Assistant Chief of Staff in charge of Military Intelligence) and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the nature of information desired from those two services and shall advise the two named Directors of any coverage desired beyond the normal coverage of those agencies. The Director of Naval Intelligence (Assistant Chief of Staff in charge of Military Intelligence) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation will

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undertake to perform the additional tasks requested in so far as it is practical and possible within the limitations of the facilities available.

They will advise the Assistant Chief of Staff in charge of Military Intelligence (Director of Naval Intelligence) of the additional assistance, if any, which they will be able to render, and it will then be the responsibility of military intelligence (Office of Naval Intelligence) to take the necessary steps under its own direction to satisfy its own requirements.

(Signed) Geo. V. Strong

Major General George V. Strong
Assistant Chief of Staff,
G-2, War Department

(Signed) H. C. Train

Rear Admiral H. C. Train,
Director, Office of Naval Intelligence

(Signed) J. Edgar Hoover

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover,
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

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